



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Committee Statement
LB 265

Hearing Date: February 2, 2005

Committee On: Health and Human Services

Introducer(s): (Howard, Brown, Byars, Kruse, Louden, Price)

Title: Change child welfare caseload and employment reporting requirements

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File

Advanced to General File with Amendments

X Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

7 Yes Senator Jensen, Byars, Cunningham, Erdman, Johnson, Stuthman
 and Howard

No

Present, not voting

Absent

Proponents:

Senator Howard
Meredith Metcalf

Will Varicak
Deborah Schriner
Laurie Hultgren
Carol Stitt
Paul Mommens

Representing:

Introducer
National Association of Social Workers,
Nebraska Chapter
Nebraska Association of Public Employees
Nebraska Association of Public Employees
Nebraska Association of Public Employees
Foster Care Review Board
Self

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes: LB 265 relates to public child welfare services and reporting of child protective services caseloads and employment.

The bill amends section 68-1207.01. The bill provides new legislative findings and intent. The bill provides legislative intent to establish “accountability for the health and welfare of Nebraska children with the Nebraska Health and Human Services System.” The bill provides legislative recognition that “the well-being of Nebraska children depends on accountability

throughout the system and using appropriate means of measuring success and responsibility.” The bill declares that the Legislature seeks to ensure (a) the health and safety of all children in Nebraska, (b) statewide access to preventive services to maintain the mental and physical health of Nebraska’s children, (c) the adequate availability of appropriately educated child protective services (CPS) caseworkers and case managers and appropriate supporting professional, (d) appropriate and thorough training for CPS caseworkers and case managers, (e) integration of school-based services with CPS, and (f) evaluation of the foregoing in annual reports to the Legislature.

The bill requires the Director of Health and Human Services to provide an annual report to the Legislature and the Governor, including (1) a comparison of Nebraska CPS caseloads with national standards, (2) the caseload of each CPS caseworker and case manager, and each CPS worker providing services directly to children and families, (3) cumulative outcomes of CPS cases, (4) the number of CPS caseworkers and case managers, and CPS workers providing services directly to children and families, and average and cumulative statistics on length of employment in such positions, (5) the average cost of training per employee for CPS caseworkers and case managers, and CPS workers providing services directly to children and families, (6) the number of annual reviews performed on CPS cases during the period covered by the report and the status of children on CPS caseloads whose cases did not receive an annual review.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Jim Jensen, Chairperson